

Message Text

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43

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

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R 091631Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4955

UNCLAS PARIS 29474

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, XT

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: NEW ECAC MINIMUM CHARTER RATES

REF: STATE 267685

1. NO ORIGINAL WAS SENT OF VERES' LETTER OF NOV. 21 TO CAB CHAIRMAN TIMM ON MINIMUM CHARTER RATES. BECAUSE OF FRENCH POSTAL STRIKE AT THE TIME, ECAC SECRETARIAT BY PREARRANGEMENT WITH EMBASSY TELEXED TEXT TO US FOR ONWARD TRANSMITTAL BY EMBASSY TELEGRAM TO CHAIRMAN TIMM AND TO MEADOWS. FOR ANY REPLY WE SUGGEST CHAIRMAN TIMM SIMPLY REFER TO VERES LETTER OF THAT DATE "SENT VIA THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN PARIS".

2. DOZ INFORMS US THAT THUS FAR RESULTS OF MAIL VOTE ARE AS FOLLOWS: TEN STATES HAVE "ACCEPTED EXPLICITLY"; THREE STATES HAVE ACCEPTED AS GUIDELINES; AND TWO STATES HAVE ABSTAINED. DOZ SAID SOME STATES COULD CHANGE THEIR VOTES; HE IS HOPEFUL THAT ABSTENTIONS WILL MOVE UP TO ACCEPTANCE AND PERHAPS ONE OR TWO MORE STATES THAT HAVE NOT CAST A VOTE WILL STILL BE HEARD FROM. DOZ PLEADED CONFIDENTIALITY WHEN WE ASKED FOR BREAKDOWN OF VOTE BY COUNTRY, BUT AFTER A LITTLE PRODDING HE INDICATED THAT BELGIUM, NETHERLANDS AND FRANCE WERE AMONG STATES THAT HAD "ACCEPTED EXPLICITLY" AND THAT EACH OF THEM PLANNED TO ENFORCE

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STRICTLY THE ECAC MINIMUM RATES. DOZ ADMITTED THAT SOME STATES THAT "ACCEPTED EXPLICITLY" HAD ACCOMPANIED THIS WITH RESERVATIONS (SEEMINGLY A CONTRADICTION IN TERMS) BUT HE WOULD GIVE NO FURTHER DETAILS.

3. UNLIKE AT AN INTERMEDIATE SESSION OF ECAC WHERE A SIMPLE MAJORITY OF MEMBER STATES PRESENT AND VOTING IS ENOUGH TO ADOPT A FORMAL RECOMMENDATION TO MEMBER STATES, MAIL VOTE REQUIRES AT LEAST FOURTEEN MEMBER STATES IN FAVOR FOR MEASURE TO HAVE FORCE OF ECAC RECOMMENDATION. WITH MAJORITY SHORT OF FOURTEEN MAIL VOTES, MEASURE ONLY HAS FORCE OF ECAC "GUIDELINES".

4. DOZ WAS A BIT DISTRESSED TO LEARN THAT EMBASSY HAD INDICATED TO WASHINGTON NEW MINIMUM CHARTER RATES WERE SUBJECT OF MAIL VOTE. HE WAS AFRAID THAT THIS MIGHT HAVE DIMINISHED IMPACT OF VERES' LETTER. WE COMMENTED THAT IN TRANSMITTING LETTER WE OBVIOUSLY FELT COMPELLED APPRISE WASHINGTON OF THE EXACT STATUS OF THE ECAC MEASURE AND HAD IMPLIED ANYWAY THAT MAIL VOTE WAS MORE OR LESS OF A FORMALITY FOLLOWING DGCA'S APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE OF NEW MINIMUM RATES TO BE COMPUTED BY ECAC EXPERTS. THIS APPEARED MOLLIFY DOZ. (COMMENT: DOZ OCCASIONALLY WORRIES THAT HE MAY HAVE GONE OUT ON A LIMB. IN VIEW OF HIS SENSITIVITY WE SUGGEST THAT ABOVE DETAILS ON MAIL VOTE BE TREATED AS FYI BY USG.)

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